GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4320
ANSWERED ON:23.04.2008
RE DEFINITION OF BELOW POVERTY LINE
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba;Sen Smt. Minati;Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to re-define the people living Below Poverty Line as reported in the "Times of India" dated March 31, 2008;

(b) if so, whether the Government has set up an Expert Group to review the current set of economic indicators to identify the poor;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government is also considering specific criteria for automatic listing of SCs/STs widows and physically challenged people as BPL/poor; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS(SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY)

(a) to (c) : No such proposal is under consideration, at present. However, the Planning Commission in December 2005 constituted an Expert Group to review the methodology for estimation of poverty under the Chairmanship of Prof. Suresh D. Tendulkar. The terms of reference of the Expert Group are as follows:

i) To examine the issues relating to the comparability of the 50th, 55th and 61st round, and to suggest methodologies for deriving such comparability with past and future surveys.

ii) To review alternative conceptualizations of poverty, and the associated technical aspects of procedures of measurement and data base for empirical estimation including procedures for updating over time and across states.

iii) In the light of
(ii), to recommend any changes in the existing procedures of official estimates of poverty.

(d) : No, Sir.

(e) : In view of (d) above, does not arise.